

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks. Claims 22-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 22 is amended and claim 25 has been cancelled. By this Amendment, no claims are added. Claim 22 is the independent claim.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the telephone interview conducted on August 26, 2009. As discussed during the interview, Applicants have amended claim 22 to further include "wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number, then the determined field has a field parity different from the current field marcoblock." The Examiner indicated that these amendments would overcome the cited portions of Wang. In addition, Applicants have provided below distinctions between the "reference field numbers" of FIGS. 7A, 7B and 8 of Wang and the "reference picture index information" of claim 22, as well as arguments against Wang concerning the newly recited feature of claim 22, as requested. As a result, Applicants submit that this application is in a condition. If anything should prevent this application from proceeding to allowance, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to call Applicants' representatives at the telephone number of the undersigned below to further discuss.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Wang et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0117649, hereinafter "Wang"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

First, Applicants submit that the "reference field numbers" of FIGS. 7A, 7B and 8 of Wang and the "reference picture index information" of claim 22 are different. For instance, while FIGS. 7A, 7B and 8 of Wang illustrate "reference field numbers", the "reference field numbers" of Wang do not illustrate "reference picture index information" within the meaning of claim 22 because the assigned "reference field numbers" of FIGS. 7A, 7B and 8 of Wang do not determine "a field having a same parity as the current macroblock or a different parity from the current macroblock as a reference picture." Rather, FIGS. 7A, 7B and 8 of Wang closely resemble the reference picture index shown in FIG. 4 of the present application. FIG. 4 of the present application illustrates the prior art, which is different from the reference picture index (macroblock level) of FIGS. 8-12 of the present application. As a result, the "reference field numbers" of FIGS. 7A, 7B and 8 of Wang do not include the same type of information.

Second, as discussing during the interview, Applicants submit that Wang does not disclose or suggest "wherein if the reference picture index information is an odd index number, then the determined field has a field parity different from the current field marcoblock" of claim 22. For instance, the Examiner relies upon paragraphs [0076] and [0077], as well as FIGS. 6, 7a, 7b and 8 of Wang, as disclosing "wherein the determining step determines a field having a same parity as the current macroblock or a different parity from the current macroblock as a reference picture based upon reference picture index information, index information for the reference frame, and field parity of the current field macroblock" of claim 22.

Please find below paragraphs [0076] and [0077] of Wang.

[0076] The method of direct mode vector calculation in case 2 will be described in connection with FIG. 10 and FIG. 11. As shown in FIG. 10 and FIG. 11, a current B picture (900) is to be encoded in field mode using a backward reference picture (901) that has been encoded in field mode and a forward reference picture (902) as its reference pictures.

Frames in FIG. 10 and FIG. 11 are represented with solid vertical lines and their corresponding fields, f1 and f2, are represented with dashed vertical lines. According to an embodiment of the present invention, the backward reference picture (901) can be an I, P, or B picture that has been encoded in frame mode. Similarly, the forward reference picture (902) can also be an encoded I, P, or B picture.

[0077] As shown in FIG. 10, there is a block (905) in the first field of the current B picture (900). Its motion vectors are derived from the forward motion vector, MV.sub.1 of its co-located block (906) in the backward reference picture (901). According to an embodiment shown in FIG. 10, the co-located block (906) is in a field of the same parity as is the block (905) in the current B picture (900). The block (905) and the co-located block (906) have equal pixel dimensions. These dimensions can be 16 by 16 pixels, 16 by 8 pixels, 8 by 16 pixels, 8 by 8 pixels, 8 by 4 pixels, 4 by 8 pixels, or 4 by 4 pixels.

Nothing in these paragraphs suggest that the system in Wang determines a field having a same parity as the current macroblock or a different parity from the current macroblock as a reference picture based in part on reference picture index information. Because Wang does not make this determination Wang cannot possibly disclose determining a field having a different parity from the current macroblock if the reference picture index information is an odd index number, as required by claim 22. At most, the above-recited paragraphs and FIGS. 6, 7a, 7b and 8 of Wang illustrate that field reference pictures are assigned odd and even reference field numbers. Nothing in Wang suggests that the even or odd reference field numbers of Wang reflect “reference picture index information” in order to determine a field having a same or different parity as compared to the current macroblock. Therefore, Wang cannot possibly anticipate claim 22 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Claims 23-24, dependent on claim 22, are patentable for at least the same reasons. As such, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the pending claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

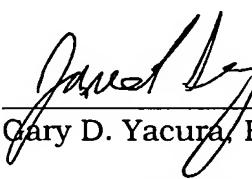
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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